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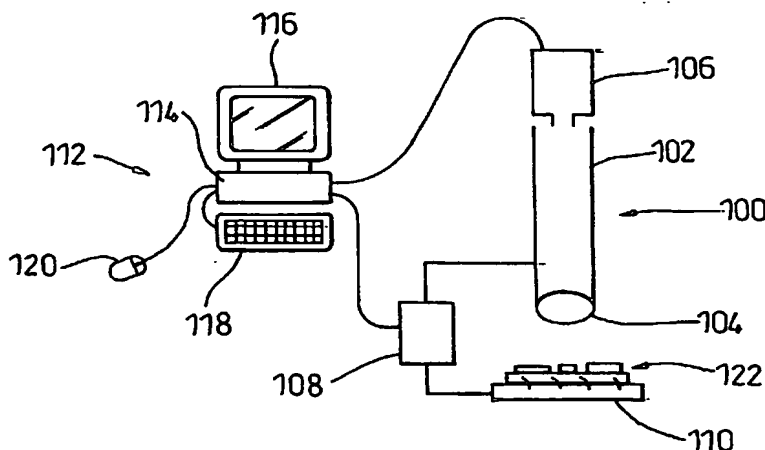
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(54) Title: IMAGE ANALYSIS METHOD, APPARATUS AND SOFTWARE



(57) Abstract: An image analysis apparatus comprises a microscope (102) arranged to capture an image of a sample (122), a processor unit (114) arranged to process the image and a drive mechanism (108). The drive mechanism (108) is arranged to effect relative motion between the sample (122) and the microscope (102) typically along an optical axis of the microscope (102). The microscope (102) is arranged to capture a plurality of images (402a-404c) of the sample (122) at a plurality of points, typically, along the optical axis. Relative motion of between the sample (122) and the microscope (102) typically, along the optical axis is effected by the drive mechanism (108) and the processor unit (114) is arranged to divide each of the plurality of captured images (402a-404c) into a plurality of sub-images and select one of each of the plurality of sub-images having the best focus characteristics.